UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.154/287
1 March 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1996 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY, ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

I request that note verbale No. HC-01-96, dated 27 February 1996 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations be circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (see annex).

The note verbale in question describes the various actions taken by the host country in advance of, and in response to, the various concerns of the Permanent Mission of Cuba as reflected in its note verbale to this Mission of 25 February 1996.

(Signed) Victor MARRERO

96-05065 (E) 040396 050396

ANNEX

Note verbale dated 27 February 1996 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and refers to the latter's note verbale NV.169 of 25 February 1996 (A/AC.154/285, annex).

The United States Mission regrets the incident of physical aggression committed against First Secretary Felipe Mario Medina González on 25 February by unknown assailants. In keeping with the obligations of the host country, the New York Police Department immediately began an investigation into the charges of assault against Mr. Medina, as well as additional charges of robbery. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also begun a federal investigation under the United States statute for the protection of foreign officials. These investigations are proceeding rapidly. Federal and local law-enforcement agencies regret that they have not yet been afforded the opportunity to meet again with Mr. Medina to gather additional information about the incident. Such information would be helpful to further their efforts to identify the individuals responsible and to pursue this case to a just conclusion. It is hoped that such a meeting will take place as soon as possible.

The United States Mission takes further note of the Permanent Mission's demand that the host country take sufficient and proper measures to guarantee the security of the Permanent Mission and its personnel. The United States Mission regrets that its was not informed by the Permanent Mission of Cuba, until receipt of note verbale NV.169 on 25 February, of several telephone calls during the evening of 24 February warning of physical threats against the Mission and mission members. Nevertheless, as the Permanent Mission is well aware, federal and local law-enforcement officials responded quickly to a spontaneous demonstration which began shortly after noon on 25 February. When some of the protesters at that demonstration became unruly and refused to move the required distance from the Permanent Mission, 13 individuals were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Their cases are pending before the courts.

The United States Mission wishes once again to reiterate that it takes its host country obligations to assure the security of diplomatic missions and their personnel extremely seriously. In that light, the United States Mission has requested, and the New York Police Department has agreed to an increase in the existing uniformed police coverage at the Mission until further notice.

The United States Mission will provide additional information concerning the incident involving Mr. Medina as it becomes available.